

Better Links for Better Outcomes: Ontario Children's Service Partners

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**Delegates at the Youth
Justice Ontario Conference – A
New Vision**

Major “hot button” issues:

1. Accessibility

◆ Lack of MH Services

- ◆ E.g., northern and remote communities
- ◆ Demand exceeds supply

◆ Barriers to MH Services

- ◆ Involvement with legal system
- ◆ Age barrier
- ◆ Externalizing part of exclusionary criterion
- ◆ Motivation and self referral requirement

Major “hot button” issues:

2. Transition Difficulties

-~40% reduction in custody/detention days

-reinvestment to community not keeping pace with change

Major “hot button” issues:

3. Intensive Rehabilitative Custody & Supervision Order (IRCS)

- presumptive offense + mental disorder + potential to benefit + consent

- \$100,000/youth/year from federal government

- bar too high

- 10/year predicted

- bar too high (2 youth to date)

Lessons Learned:

- ◆ Legislation has reduced number of youths in detention/custody and average length of stays
- ◆ We can change how we do business
- ◆ Attitudes slow to change
 - ◆ **double stigma prevails – “sick and bad”**
 - ◆ **default access to mental health services is through justice system**

Lessons Learned:

- ◆ Keeping youth in community has not automatically increased access to mental health services
- ◆ Appropriate use of custody has increased demand for response from other sectors (eg., educ., CW, MH)
- ◆ Collaboration with other sectors largely in pockets
- ◆ Agency survival strategies and timing of hoped for re-investment dollars compromise collaboration

Youth Justice & CMH: Ideas for Working Together

Key directions:

- ◆ Integration -- meaningful working alliances
- ◆ Accessibility
- ◆ Quality assurance
- ◆ Rationalization and Accountability of Services

Youth Justice & CMH: Ideas for Working Together

1. Reorganize association structure to parallel Ministry structure

2. Educate to promote awareness and understanding

-within and across sectors

-within government and across ministries

-within communities (public)

The lobby for understanding on behalf of youth should be equally as strong as the lobby for resources.

Youth Justice & CMH: Ideas for Working Together (cont'd)

3. Adapt an outreach framework and consultation-liason model:

- enhance role for primary/frontline providers
- support primary/frontline providers with resources and through input from mental health specialists
 - assessment and/or relevant consultation
 - follow-up between/after consultation(s)
 - indirect services (e.g., facilitation of referrals)
 - in-servicing
- train multidiscipline specialists to consult effectively

Youth Justice & CMH: Ideas for Working Together (cont'd)

4.(a) Rationale for excluding some of needs population must be client based and consistent with promising practices for intervention.

(b) When exclusion from highly specialized or core programs in a given community/region occurs, then funding must be made available to address the mental health needs of excluded group.

Youth Justice & CMH: Ideas for Working Together

5. Provide services for 16, 17 & 18 year olds

6. Motivational/engagement component built into service model

7. Increased flexibility in service provision

8. Renegotiate criteria to access dollars provided for

Intensive Rehabilitative Custody & Supervision Order

(IRCS)